AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice and amend claims 1 and 3-14 as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for machine-producing a series of mailpieces ~~with the aid of~~ using a system for assembling mailpieces, the method comprising ~~traversing~~ a setting phase, a start-up phase following said setting phase and an operating phase following said start-up phase,

said setting phase comprising the steps of:

- inputting at least one reference code representing at least one item-type property of physical, postal items of a particular type;

- inputting at least one setting code representing at least one system setting; and

- the system storing said reference code and said setting code in a memory, in mutually coupled relationship;

the system during said start-up phase ~~comprising~~:

- ~~the system~~ scanning and registering at least one property of at least one physical, postal item ~~of a particular type~~;

- generating a code representing at least the registered property;

- comparing said code representing the at least one registered property with the at least one reference code, stored in ~~a~~ the memory, which represents the at least one item-type property; and

- in response to at least a defined extent of agreement between said code representing the at least one registered property and the reference code or at least one of the reference codes, selecting at least one setting code, associated with said reference code or said at least one of the reference codes, which represents a system setting; and

~~during an~~ the operating phase ~~following said start-up phase,~~ comprising the steps of:

- the system producing a series of mailpieces each including at least one of said items of said ~~item~~ particular type, in accordance with the selected setting code.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[2]] 1, further comprising registering at least ~~two~~ one other physical ~~item-type properties~~ property of the at least one physical postal item, wherein:

said generated code represents [[the]] a combination of the registered ~~item type~~ properties of the at least one physical postal item;

a setting code is selected ~~if said generated code exhibits at least~~ in response to at least a defined extent of agreement ~~with~~ between said generated code and a reference code coupled ~~there~~to said setting code, which reference code represents a combination of the at least ~~two~~ item-type ~~properties~~ property one item-type property of physical, postal items of a particular type and another item-type property of physical, postal items of a particular type.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the item-type properties of at least two ~~different~~ items of different types are registered.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein selecting a setting code comprises: preselecting at least two setting codes each representing a system setting, said setting codes each being coupled to ~~a~~ one of the references codes ~~which exhibits~~ that are at least to a defined extent ~~of~~ in agreement with said code generated ~~starting~~ from the ~~registered~~ at least one ~~item type~~ registered property; and selecting ~~a setting code from~~ one of said preselected setting codes.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, further comprising representing said preselected setting codes, or said system settings represented thereby, in humanly perceptible form; wherein selecting ~~a setting code from~~ one of said preselected setting codes ~~consists in~~ includes inputting a choice from said represented setting codes or said system settings represented thereby.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein ~~selecting a setting code from~~ the selection of one of said preselected setting codes ~~is done depending~~ depends on agreement between system settings represented by said preselected setting codes and a current system setting.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein ~~selecting a setting code from~~ the selection of one of said preselected setting codes ~~is done~~

~~depending~~ depends on agreement between item types associated with system settings represented by said preselected setting codes and ~~item~~ the types of the physical postal items present in the system.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the registering of the at least ~~one item type~~ property is ~~done~~ carried out in the area of a feeder station of the system.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising determining a difference between a current loading condition of the system for assembling mailpieces and a required loading condition for assembling mailpieces in accordance with said system setting associated with said at least one selected setting code, and ~~representing~~ signalling an indication associated with said difference.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising: determining at least two differences between a current loading condition of the system for assembling mailpieces and at least two ~~required~~ loading conditions, each required for assembling mailpieces in accordance with one of at least two of said system settings associated with at least two of said selected setting codes;

determining a ~~lesser~~ smallest one of said at least two differences; and

selecting as first ~~one~~ setting code, one of said at least two selected setting codes that belongs to ~~a~~ the one of the system settings for which the difference

between the required loading condition and the current loading condition of the system for assembling mailpieces is the ~~lesser~~ smallest.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium carrying a computer readable computer program for setting a system for producing mailpieces, comprising instructions for:

during a setting phase:

- receiving at least one inputted reference code representing at least one item-type property of physical, postal items of a particular type;

- receiving at least one inputted setting code representing at least one system setting; and

- causing the system to store said reference code and said setting code in a memory, in mutually coupled relationship;

during ~~traversing~~ a start-up phase following said setting phase ~~comprising~~:

- causing the system to extract and register at least one property of at least one physical, postal item ~~of a particular type~~;

- generating a code representing the at least one registered property;

- comparing said code representing the at least one registered property with the at least one reference code, stored in ~~a~~ the memory, which represents the at least one item-type property; and

- in response to at least a defined extent of agreement between the at least one code representing ~~a~~ the registered property and the reference code or at least one of the reference codes, selecting at least one setting code, associated with said

reference code or said at least one of the reference codes, which represents a system setting;

and ~~instructions for causing,~~

during an operating phase following said start-up phase~~,~~:

- causing a series of mailpieces to be produced, ~~from~~ each including at least one of said items of said item type, in accordance with the selected setting code.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for producing a series of mailpieces comprising:

at least one station for processing postal items into mailpieces;

a sensor, for sensing and registering at least ~~one type~~ one property of at least one physical ~~an~~ postal item;

a control structure communicatively linked with said sensor for receiving signals ~~coming~~ from said sensor, which signals represent the at least one ~~type~~ property of ~~an~~ the at least one physical postal item;

a memory for storing at least one reference code representing ~~an~~ at least one item-type property of physical, postal items of a particular type and at least one setting code representing a system setting associated with said reference code ~~item type property~~, which memory is communicatively linked with said control structure;

wherein the control structure is arranged for :

during a setting phase:

- receiving at least one inputted reference code representing at least one item-type property of physical, postal items of a particular type;

- receiving at least one inputted setting code representing at least one system setting; and

- storing said reference code and said setting code in a memory, in mutually coupled relationship;

during a start-up phase ~~comprising~~ following said setting phase:

- comparing the signals ~~coming~~ from the sensor with said reference code or reference codes stored in the memory, and

- in response to at least a defined extent of agreement between ~~said code representing the at least one registered property~~ the signals from the sensor and the reference code or at least one of the reference codes, selecting at least one setting code, associated with said reference code or said at least one of the reference codes, which represents a system setting; and ~~for controlling~~

during an operating phase following said start-up phase~~,~~:

- causing said at least one station ~~for producing~~ to produce a series of mailpieces ~~from~~, each including at least one of said items of said ~~item~~ items of said item type, with the system set in accordance with the selected setting code.

14. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 13, further comprising at least one feeder station for feeding postal items, wherein said sensor for registering said at least one ~~item type~~ property is located in the area of said feeder station.